Contents: Erotica, Women of the Sea, Sexy Poetry

NORTH *Bi* NORTHWEST

Newsletter of the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network, a member project of Gay Community Social Services
FEBRUARY/MARCH 1995 VOLUME 8, NUMBER 1

Blinded by Science

by Terry Farrah
farrah@halcyon.com

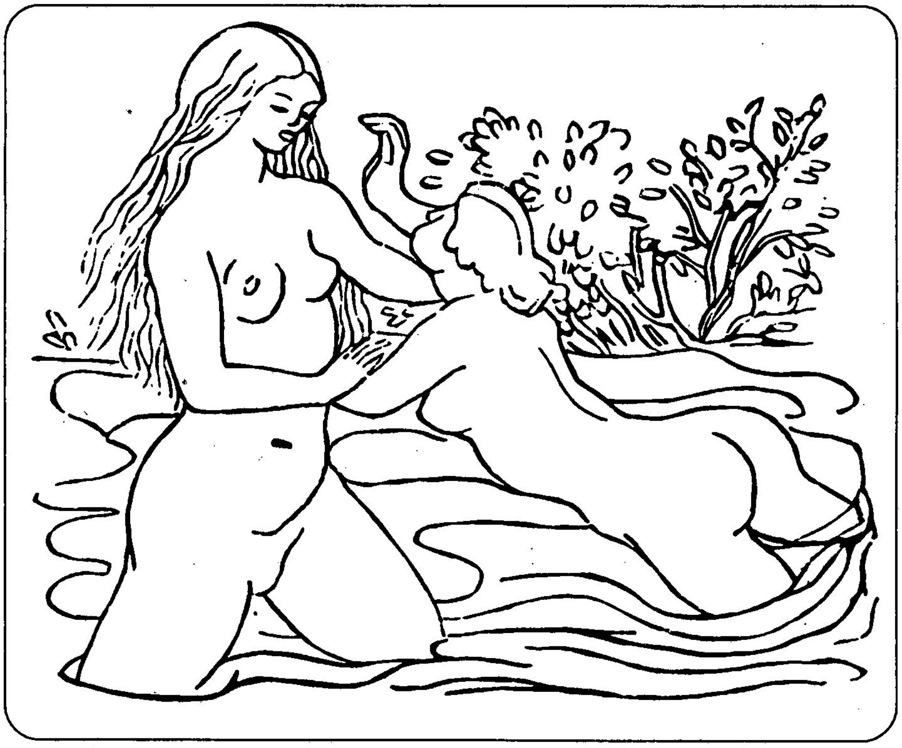
For my erotic feelings to surface and swell, my psyche perversely requires the safety of believing that I am not actually doing anything sexual. How, at an event called Octopussy Galore, was I to convince myself that I wasn't actually doing anything sexual?

My first idea was to volunteer to work. In that case I could pretend that I was, say, handing out towels, when in fact I was actually flirting audaciously. My second idea, offered by a friend, was to bring a buddy so that I wouldn't feel so alone and exposed. My third idea was to bring body crayons and massage oil as props.

I called the Pussy Hotline and was offered a volunteer slot greeting people at the door from 2 to 5am. Rather at the end of the evening — I'd have to rely on other ways to feel sexy before my shift. I found my crayons and bought a quart of coconut oil at the PCC. At the last minute I called my friend Cathy, a poor and busy graduate student, and when I offered to pick up the tab for her ticket she agreed to at least accompany me through the door — with the possibility that she'd walk right out again.

Cathy and I arrived at 11:15pm and, after touring the facility and checking our clothes, Cathy decided the dry sauna was a place she wanted to be. There were maybe ten women in there and the atmosphere was anything but erotic; nobody was touching anybody, and the conversation was on the cerebral topic of gender stereotyping in the media. Boring, but safe: no sex! Cathy and I sat next to each other and Cathy got absorbed in the conversation. I opened my jar of coconut oil (solid at room temperature) and stirred the top layer with my finger as it softened in the heat. I asked Cathy if I could rub it on her shoulder and she said yes.

After a bit the rest of our bench was vacated, and I asked Cathy to lie down. I kept rubbing oil into her back and we chatted about our numerous mutual colleagues, acquaintances, friends and lovers. We weren't having sex! Her breasts looked inviting, rounding out from underneath her chest. If I had been giving her a back rub in any other environment, they would have been off-limits. But, this was a sex party, right? While gossiping about our former co-workers, I gradually let myself incorporate Cathy's breasts into the strokes of my massage. Still sitting down, I lay my upper body onto her back as I massaged her shoulders and arms. After finishing off the rest of her body from head to toe (and letting my fingers travel up her inner thighs a little farther than I otherwise might) I asked her to



More 'Science' on page 14

Join! $10-50/year, sliding scale.
I want to wear my bisexuality in my wallet. Make me a card carrying bisexual! Enclosed is $________ for a one-year membership.

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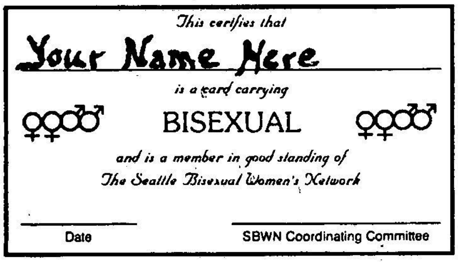
Join the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network and become a card-carrying bisexual!


This certifies that
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is a card carrying
BISEXUAL
and is a member in good standing of
The Seattle Bisexual Women's Network

Date

SBWN Coordinating Committee

Memberships are $10-50 a year on a sliding scale, and are open to women everywhere. Members are entitled to discounts on events and purchases. See mail-in form above.

SBWN Statement of Purpose

We are a group of women from diverse backgrounds working to create a feminist bisexual support network and to promote, in both the heterosexual world and in the lesbian/gay community, the understanding and acceptance of bisexuality as one of many valid sexual identities.

We regard ourselves as part of the community that is united against heterosexism and homophobia. We are dedicated to the right of all people to define their own sexuality, free from any social, political, or economic coercion. The discriminations we face on the bases of our gender and our sexuality are not the only forms of oppression. We recognize that oppression is non-hierarchical and that none of us is free until all of us are free. We are invested in the feminist struggle to transform our culture into one free of all forms of bigotry, hatred, and exploitation.

We seek to provide a safe place for women to explore all aspects of their sexual orientation and identity. All women are welcome to attend SBWN activities. We are exclusively a women's group in order to create a safe space for women's expression and leadership. We come together to affirm ourselves and our choices.

North Bi Northwest is the bimonthly newsletter of the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network. It is produced by women and is feminist in content. We feature news and events pertinent to the bisexual community, as well as creative writing, artwork, and an advice column.

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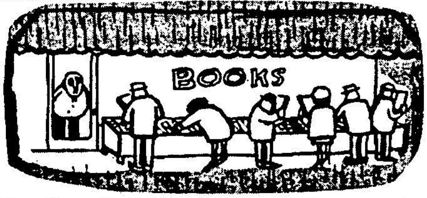
We welcome submissions from women and men that concern feminism, politics, sexuality, or anything of interest to bisexual women. Help define our culture! Share your histories, anger, pleasure, energy. Send us your essays, poetry, photographs, drawings, book reviews, short stories, interviews, media reports, rants, cartoons, erotica, journals, theory, conversations and letters. You're important to us and what you have to say is important to everyone.

We accept input on disk with hard copy (Mac or PC), typed, or handwritten if it's legible. If you send us something to print, you get a free issue; send six and get a year's subscription! Let us know what pseudonym you use, if you do not want to publish under your everyday name.

Views expressed in North Bi Northwest are those of individual authors and do not necessarily represent the views of SBWN. Inclusion in this publication does not indicate author's sexual orientation.



Deadline for submissions to the next issue: March 5. (see address above).

North Bi Northwest is printed on bi paper! (50% recycled).

North Bi Northwest

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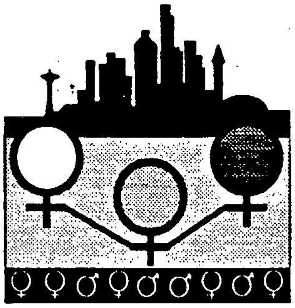

Seattle Bisexual
Women's Network
PO Box 30645,
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SBWN can always use volunteers to help with a variety of tasks. Give us a call or talk to a facilitator at a meeting.

North Bi Northwest is available by subscription (see above) or at area bookstores and newsstands, including: in Seattle, Red and Black Books, Beyond the Closet, Bailey Coy Books, Fremont Place Book Company, and Toys in Babeland.

North Bi Northwest is a publication of the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network, a member project of Gay Community Social Services, PO Box 22228, Seattle, WA 98122-0228. (Not for correspondence with SBWN or North Bi Northwest).

From the Editors...

The Seattle Bisexual Women's Network, which brings you this publication, is looking forward with enthusiasm to our upcoming retreat. We plan to review our history, evaluate our present, and plan our future. This is reenergizing our organization! Contact us if you want to contribute or participate.

Upcoming events we'll be planning our involvement in are International Women's Day, Bi Mardi Gras, and Pride in June.

I'd like to see SBWN get re-involved with the BiOut Speakers Bureau and help spread the bi-women's-word around the Northwest.

Happy Bisexual Visibility Day, ♥ February 14.

Dear fellow Newsletter readers,
I wonder what others' experiences and impressions are.

A few years ago, some of the bi men and women I know were telling me they get involved only with other bisexual people. Their reasoning was that there was less explaining to do, more likelihood of being understood. I felt that was fine for them, but still a pretty narrow look at the pool of potential partners.

Now I'm beginning to wonder if they aren't right.

As far as my experience as a bi woman who enjoys male energy and playing sexually with men, I'm finding men pretty tedious. Recently I had the experience of snuggling with a straight man. From the start, snuggling (clothed), not intercourse, was our stated plan. We both agreed this would be a pleasant way to spend a morning's hour. When I pulled his hand out of the front of the waistband of my pants, he thanked me for reminding him that he tends to get carried away and get himself all turned on (he'd been nuzzling and squeezing me; I'd been getting more and more anxious), and that he wants to remember to just stay with the flow of sensuous pleasure. Fine, but I'm getting fed up with being the sex police.

Furthermore, if I'm about to become some man's lover, I truly don't want him to get *himself* turned on at the idea of having sexual access to my body; I want him to get *ME* turned on, and I'll gladly return the compliment.

Sisters, (and maybe brothers) please write to this paper and give me your feedback.

Sincerely,
Alice Chalmers

Read Hot at the Library

by Peggy Walsh

I'd been hearing about Nancy Friday's books for a while, and finally decided to check out what Seattle's library had. I don't think they're meant to be j.o. books, but there's some hot stuff in there. The fantasies ranged from mundane to hot (for me) to 'is this for real?'. Two main impressions I came away with are 1) some of these people are *crazy*, and 2) reassurance that some of my more socially unacceptable fantasies seemed quite ordinary here, and shared by enough other women to give me a sense of being normal. The collection seems to pretty much cover everything. EVERYTHING! First times; all ages, colors, genders; vegetables; hardware; the neighbor's livestock (as well as the neighbors); doing and watching; alone or with crowds.

My Secret Garden: Women's Sexual Fantasies, 1973, written with a faint tinge of embarrassment and guilt. 'You'll blush, your pulse will race!' says a reviewer. Susie Bright says she read it on a plane and soaked the seat! Me, too.

Forbidden Flowers: More Women's Sexual Fantasies, 1975, more of the same.

Women on Top: How Real Life has Changed Women's Sexual Fantasies, 1991, addresses how things have changed in the nearly twenty years since *My Secret Garden*. Women take over their own sexuality! "I love my body!"

Men in Love: Men's Sexual Fantasies: theTriumph of Love over Rage, good if you want to see what men's imaginations are up to.

Susie Bright, author of *Susie Sexpert's Lesbian Sex World*, edits a collection of (semi) fiction erotica, *Herotica: An Anthology of Women's Erotic Fiction*, the latest is *Herotica 3*. Quite a variety of work is represented.

Then locally written, but hard to find, there's *Ladies' Own Erotica*, written by the Kensington Ladies' Erotica Society, a bunch of ordinary women from down the block who got together at a series of potlucks and tentatively, then enthusiastically, unbuttoned their taboos and brought out this potpourri of erotic pieces. The sequel is *Look Homeward Erotica.*

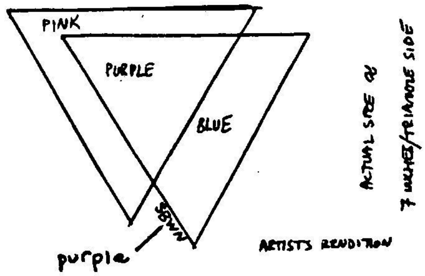
Finally, from an anthology of poetry, this one by J.V.Cunningham made me laugh out loud in the library. You never know what you'll find there ...

> 'Lip was a man who used his head.
> He used it when he went to bed.
> With his friend's wife, and with his friend,
> With either sex at either end.'

Whew! ▼

COMING OCTOBER 11: THE BISEXUAL LOGO T-SHIRT! AVAILABLE IN TWO COLORS: BLACK AND HEATHER GREY. SIZES ARE LARGE, X-LARGE, AND OVER-SIZE (APPROZIMATELY 4X-LARGE). PRICED AT $12 EACH, SBWN MEMBWERS MAY BI THE SHIRTS FOR ONLY $10 (A 15% SAVINGS, WE TOLD YOU MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES!)

GET THEM AT SBWN MEETINGS AND AT NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY CELEBRATIONS. WE CAN ALSO MAIL THEM FOR AN ADDITIONAL $2 POSTAGE AND HANDLING.



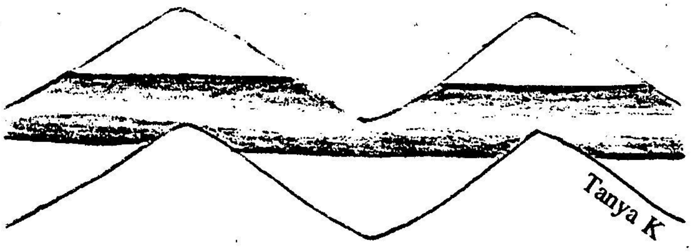
WEAR OUR COLORS WITH BISEXUAL PRIDE!

Communicate!

Are you non-monogamous? What about polyamorous or polyfidelitous? **Involved in a triad, open marriage, group marriage?** Bearpaw MacDonald is looking for you! She is trying to bring together the stories of people who have decided to step outside the standard two-person relationship. Confidentiality will be respected. For more info, contact her at: Bearpaw MacDonald, 325 Huntington Ave #59, Boston, MA 02115, or e-mail her at bearpaw@world.std.com.

The **Lesbian Fat Activists Network** (LFAN) has been running a guest column called **Bi and Large**. Talin Shahinian is looking for input, communication, and ideas. Since LFAN is only allowing the column to run until June 1995, she's hoping to reach many women before then. Contact her through LFAN at Weber, 815 15th Ave E #4, Seattle, WA 98112, or directly at 1004 Old Medford Ave, Farmingville, NY 11738-2830.

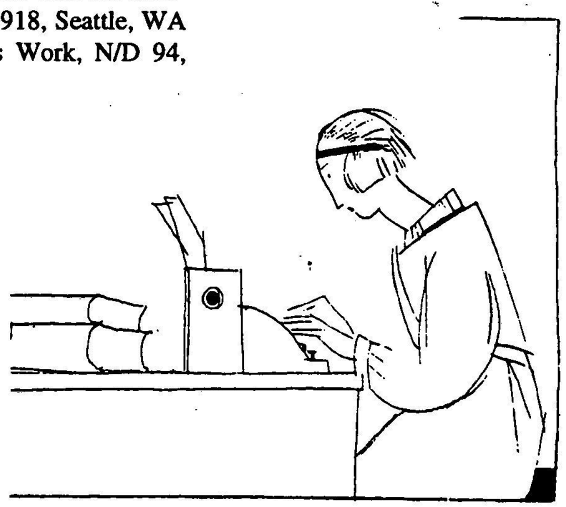
Now there's an on-line computer service that pays attention to women's issues! **Women's WIRE** (WW) is about 85% women, and the men who do join are interested in mature discussions of women-related themes. To find out more call them at 415-615-8989. (Out in Maui, 12/94, V.1 #7)



Get Involved!

Powerful Choices is an organization, started locally, that is involved in a national campaign to educate people about the atrocities in the former **Yugoslavia**. The group also raises funds to support refugee women, many of whom have been subjected to rape as a form of 'ethnic cleansing.' 100% of all donations are sent directly to support Bosnian women through groups such as Zena BiH and Karete, providing immediate shelter and psychological and legal support to survivors. Contact them at: Powerful Choices Witness Campaign, PO Box 30918, Seattle, WA 98103. (Women's Work, N/D 94, V.4, #5/6)

NOW's Lesbian / Bisexual Women's Rights Task Force has been instrumental in getting the **WOMENTOR project** going, and in the successful Coming Out Day party. But they're wondering, 'What would you like to see happening for lesbian and bisexual women in Seattle?' They meet monthly, at the NOW office, 4649 Sunnyside Ave N, Room 222, Seattle. For more information call NOW at 632-8547.



Newsy Bits

The Canadian government has allowed 62 **gay and lesbian Canadians to bring their foreign lovers home**. Since 1993 same-sex partners can be processed for landed-immigrant status on "humanitarian and compassionate grounds." (Just Out, 12/16/94)

A study by the University of Maryland at College Park has found the truth behind the **stereotype of gay people being the affluent elite**. In actuality, lesbians earned 5 to 14 percent less than non-lesbian counterparts with similar age, education, occupations, and residence. (off our backs, 12/94 V.24 #11)

Sonia Rutstein, lesbian lead singer of the rock group **disappear fear**, walked off the stage during a concert at Stamford University, Alabama, to protest college officials' censorship of her songs. Rutstein was under contract to avoid certain words or clothing that would hint at lesbianism. (Just Out, 12/16/94)

Cobb County, Georgia, has now **lost** another athletic event due to an anti-queer resolution. Officials of **Paralympics**, an international athletic competition, notified the Cobb County Galleria in October that is was not a suitable venue, because of the county's negative political environment. (Just Out, 12/16/94)

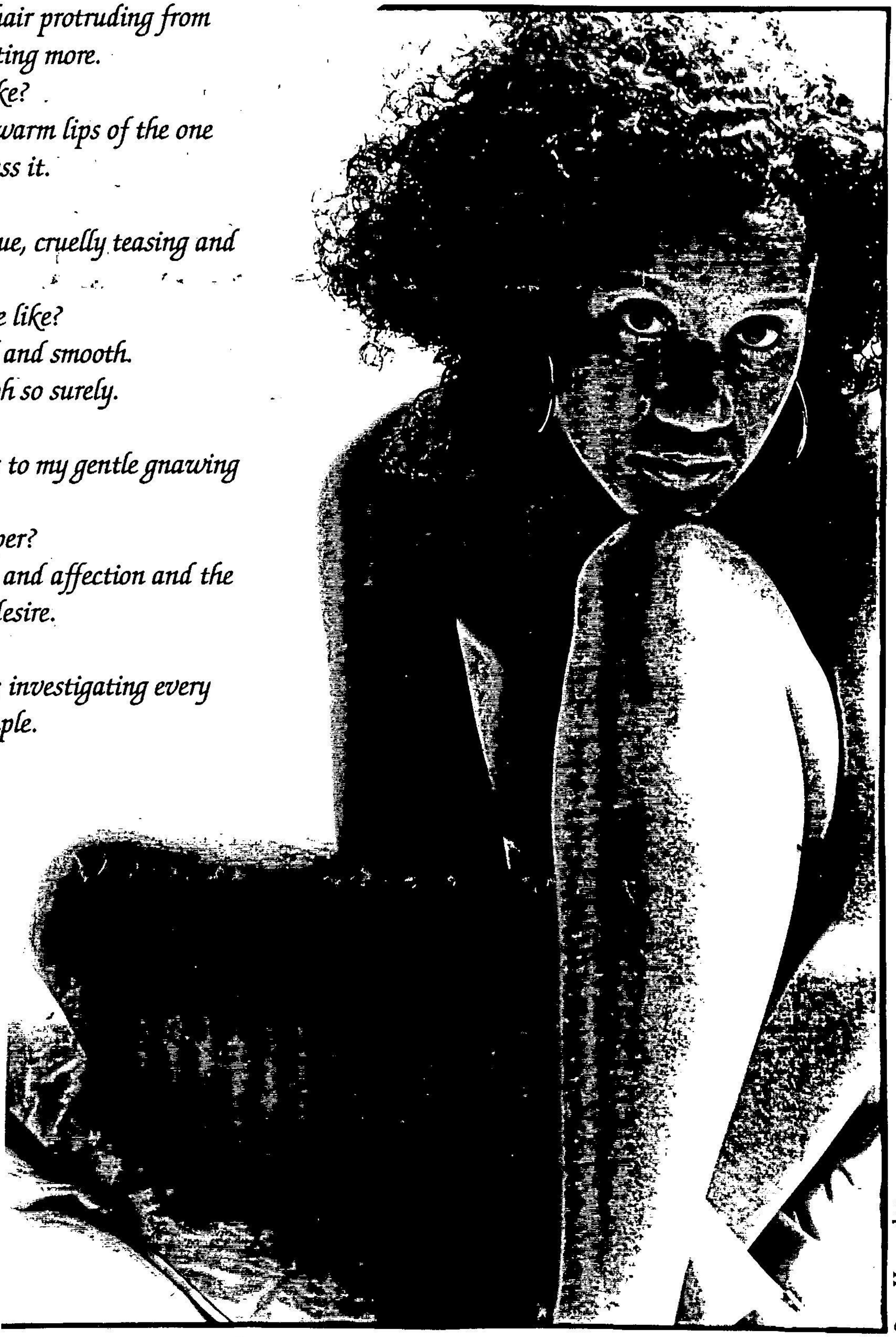
A national daily newspaper, the Daily Gazette, Zimbabwe, is being sued by members of Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe over the **paper's refusal to run a GALZ advertisement**. The ad under question was simply for counseling services. (Just Out, 12/16/94)

The Portland Oregonian **refused to run a gay-marriage notice**, while the Tigard Times had no problem with the same announcement. Jim Liebertz, one of the happy grooms, asked his mother, Penny Liebertz, to call the Oregonian to request the announcement be published. The response was short: NO. Locally, the Seattle Times runs these types of announcements for free for heterosexual couples, but makes gay and lesbian couples pay. (Just Out, 12/16/94)

The Sense of a Woman

by Staci King

May I rub your head?
The feel of the soft sprigs of hair protruding from
your scalp leaves me wanting more.
Do you know what it feels like?
A fuzzy peach awaiting the warm lips of the one
fortunate enough to possess it.
May I kiss your lips?
The taste plays with my tongue, cruelly teasing and
tormenting.
Do you know what they taste like?
A chilled Chablis, full-bodied and smooth.
Intoxicating me, slowly but oh so surely.
May I nibble your ear?
Your innocent lobe surrenders to my gentle gnawing
and libidinous whispers.
Do you know what I'd whisper?
Thoughts of my undying love and affection and the
eagerness of my wanton desire.
May I explore your body?
My mouth searches curiously; investigating every
inch of your exquisite temple.
Do you know what I find?
Your soft, wet femininity.
Throbbing gently, awaiting the caressing of my
tongue.
Delighting in the sweetness
of your being, I realize,
I'll never be the same.



Sara Hospador

Stain

by Sara Hospador

I smell the bleach
as it pours over my favorite
red blouse
your favorite
you could spot me anywhere
in that blouse.
So I wore it to dinner
(I meant to make you happy)
and in my hurry
to get away from your face
of anger and pain
I let my food
slip off my fork
destroying everything.

Lemon Joy

by K. Zimmerman

I am working in a sterile windowless, fluorescent
filled box of a bakery.
I walk across the dough encrusted floor.
I reach for the sink. I wash. I wash hands.
I wash buckets. I wash dough knives, spoons, scales.
I wash off grease. I wash chocolate in brown, sugary
swirls down the drain. I scrub.
I scrub floors turned to flour glue.
I work in this place of mindless repetition,
this place devoid of passion. I chop and portion.
I make cookies.
I walk. I walk on the concrete floor.
I walk on that flour, on that dough. I walk to the
sink.
I read the label on the detergent.
I shout.
"Do you know what this says!?"
In a paroxysm of laughter, falling into the suds, I
read,
"One Stroke of the Joy Pump
equals one ounce of Joy."

Take 2 Film Club

The video watchers report on their latest screening: *Strictly Ballroom*, a rompous flick including same sex dance scenes, a gold matador jacket to die for, a schmaltzy storyline with lots of wigs. We liked the dancing-grams, especially as she palpated the star's chest. We all squished into the couch and passed the latex, bean dip, popcorn, caramel corn and hot salsa. The after show discourse was reminiscent of slumber party 'friends.'

Women of the Sea

by Marisa Lanning and Denise Ottoson

Sandra F.

Two of the most infamous and interesting women to harry the seas were the notorious Anne Bonney and Mary Read. For several years during the early 1700s these two comrades terrorized the early colonial shipping trade, leaving a trail of bodies and ships behind them.

Born in 1700, Anne Bonney was the illegitimate child of an Irish Barrister and his mistress.

Soon after her birth, Anne's father emigrated with his mistress to New Providence in the colonies. From an early age, Anne was apparently a hellion. One story concerns a 'young man who wanted to come a little too near her was so horribly bitten by her that he lay ill for a long time as a result.' Anne supposedly married a government official by the name of Bonney when she was in her teens, but it was not long after that she met John Rackham, otherwise known as Calico Jack. Some sources claim Jack had retired from piracy, while others say he had never known pirating until he met Anne. Whichever the case, it was not long after their meeting that the two absconded with the fastest sloop in the New Providence harbor and took to the seas. The sources are very clear that Anne was the true leader of her ship. 'When they swooped down with full sails onto an unfortunate vessel, she would stand with flying hair at the helm shouting orders.' Although many claim Calico Jack was nothing but a henpecked husband, Anne's later lover was indeed Mary Read.

Mary Read was also illegitimate, the daughter of a sailor's mistress. Her mother dressed her in boys' attire, a habit Mary fell back on often in adult life. She had been a lady's maid to a French woman in England, but afterwards she tried life as a sailor, then as a soldier, taking part in the Battle of Flanders, becoming an expert swordswoman and duelist. Mary married and settled down with a fellow soldier 'to the delight of the whole regiment' and opened a tavern at Breda. Unfortunately, her husband died suddenly and, burdened with debt, Mary resumed her life as a sailor. It was when her vessel was overtaken by pirates that Mary became acquainted with Anne. Many amusing tales have been related on how Anne took a fancy to the new recruit, thinking Mary to be a pretty man, but most end the story once Mary reveals her gender, assuming nothing took place after that. However, one story goes on to tell how Calico Jack came upon the two in Anne's bed, and both without any attire on at all.

Eventually, their ship was captured (after the pirates went on a tremendous drinking bout). Jack was hanged, but Anne and Mary 'pleaded their bellies,' a last-minute ploy to stay an execution, as no pregnant woman could be legally killed. It seems unlikely that two women who had never given birth before should both wind up in the same condition and at such an opportune time. Some authors cite general whorishness, but Salmonson points out that the doctor who verified their pregnancies was actually a long-time associate of Anne's.

Mary Read died in prison waiting for the phantom birth. Anne's end is less well known. She did not die in prison but actually escaped, some say by way of marriage, and lived quietly thereafter.

Sources:

Croix, Robert de la. *A History of Piracy.* New York: Manor Books, 1978;

Carlova, John. *Mistress of the Sea.* New York: Citadel, 1964;

Myron, Nancy and Charlotte Bunch (eds.) *Women Remembered.* Baltimore: Diana Press, 1974;

Salmonson, Jessica Amanda. *The Encyclopedia of Amazons: Women Warriors from Antiquity to the Modern Era.* Doubleday, 1992.

Snow, Edward Rowe. *Women of the Sea.* London: Alvin Redman, 1962. ▼

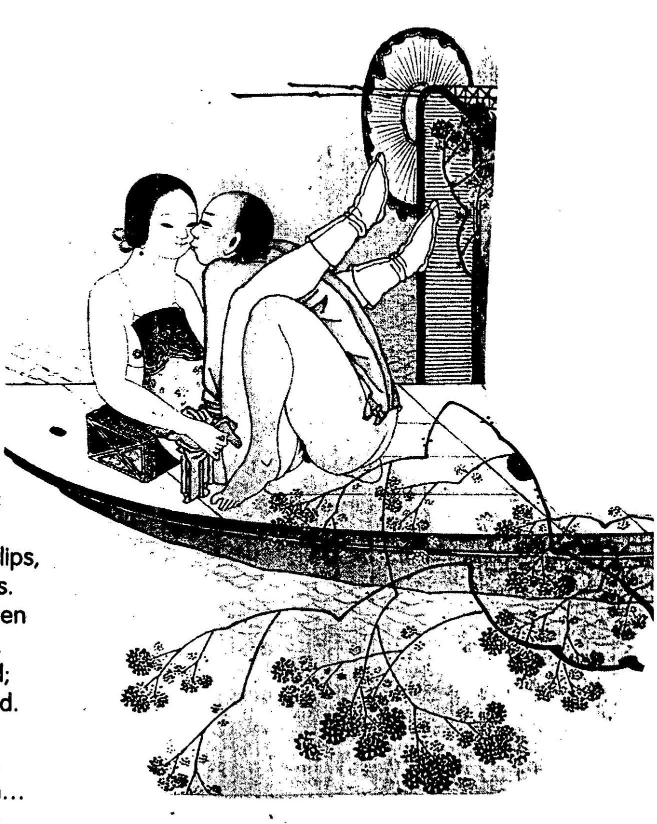
'There is nothing mysterious or magical about lesbian love-making.... The mystery and the magic come from the person with whom you are making love.' Del Martin, *Lesbian/Woman,* with Phyllis Lyon, 1972.

'Here's a rule I recommend. Never practice two vices at once.' Tallaulah Bankhead, *Tallaulah,* Chapter 4, 1952.

The Joining

by Diana H.

I watched as she dropped her jeans to the floor,
And untie her hair — this woman I adore.
I breathed in her scent, like fresh morning dew...
In my mind, came a breeze from out of the blue.
Her aura was shining, like the sun through the rain,
Casting a rainbow, erasing my pain.
She stood there before me... not one word was said.
I reached out to touch her and grew light in the head.
For years I had craved her, though silently so;
For years my great longing continued to grow.
She held out her hand and I grasped it in mine;
Then I felt my whole heart lay itself on the line.



My eyes held to hers as I caressed her soft skin;
Would I e'er have the chance to do so again?
Her warmth burned my fingers; as I sought out her lips,
I opened her woman-place with hungry fingertips.
She gasped as I probed her deep wetness, and then
She thrust up against me as I probed her again.
My lips murmured my anguished yearning aloud;
As I tasted her nipples I seemed to float on a cloud.
I pushed down her body upon the soft bed,
Delighted as she tossed the mane on her head.
My mouth travelled her body and then once again...
Then between her long legs my soul settled in.
I wrapped her around me, placed my tongue on her nub,
Then slowly and firmly, wet circles did rub.
She moaned and she tossed as I held her hips tight.
She thrashed like a demon; my tongue massaged her clit light.
When it seemed she might cum, I lifted my head,
Held her sweet pussy open, then blew on it instead.

She cried out in anguish and begged me to go on...
I felt my orgasm close beginning to dawn.
I thrust my tongue in her and drank her hot need...
She cried out again — agonized, now, indeed.
My tongue flattened against her; her pelvis thrust up.
As she fucked hard my chin, my mouth formed a cup.
She seemed on a thread between pain and sweet bliss,
Then she fell o'er the edge with a shuddering hiss.
She howled like the wind as my tongue lapped its joy —
Then I felt my cunt probed by a soft, rubber toy.
My husband — behind me — was pushing it in...
So I thrust back against him, and kept licking with a grin.
She cried out, "Please! Stop! I can't take any more!"
So I raised up my head, whispered, "Now give her what for."
With his hard cock inside her, she began bucking again
While I rubbed his hot glans quite deeply within.
Suddenly, he cried out — thrust with all of his might,
Yet he kept me within him, his ass squeezed me so tight.

As I fingered him deeply, my own tension rose...
Then I wrapped my hot pussy around Robin's cool toes.
With hardly a thrust, my wetness poured out
As if I were now a hot water spout.
I heard them both laughing, but I couldn't stop,
Though I know that the sheets were beginning to sop.
When it finally did cease, my face was beet-red
Till I saw David smiling and shaking his head.
"I never once thought I'd see such a hot day."
I saw Robin's gold mane beginning to sway.
"You're both the best lovers I yet hoped to meet.
Never has anyone cum on my feet!
I'm glad we're together. Please say I can stay,
For I want you both as partners forever and a day.
No life I could dream up could be better than this."
Without speaking, we both sealed her fate with a kiss.
That was eons ago — it seems a whole life
Since the day we took Robin to be our new wife.

Let's face it, we all have our problems. Whether it's a perilous polyfidelity predicament or simply how to shop for latex, North bi Northwest *is here to help. In keeping with the spirit of bisexuality, we offer more than one reply to each question. Send your queeries to our PO Box; our wisdom-mongers are standing bi.*

Dear Amazons,

I need An Answer.

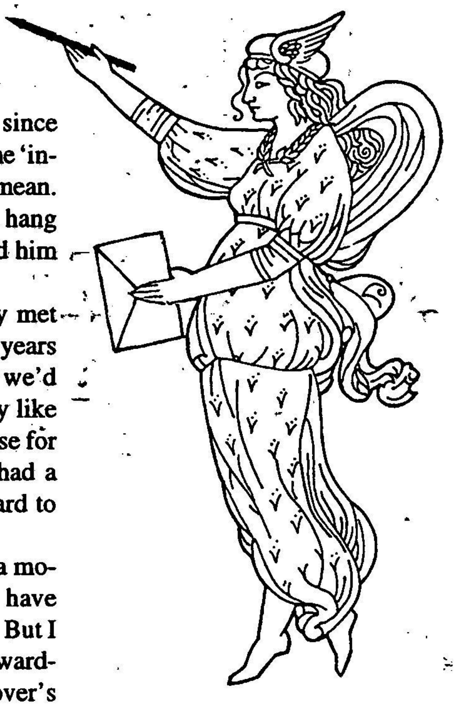
I've been seeing Patrick since last summer, and we've become 'involved' if you know what I mean. We're not 'a couple' but just hang out together sometimes. I find him very enticing and interesting.

Meanwhile, I've recently met his ex-partner, Laura (three years ex); he introduced us at a party we'd all gone to separately. I really like her. She invited me to her house for dinner and talk; I went and had a great time and we look forward to spending more time together.

Patrick and I don't have a monogamous relationship, and have seen others since the summer. But I feel a certain amount of awkwardness in getting close with a lover's ex-partner. It seems like the usual boundaries of discretion are softer than usual. I'm concerned that either party might tell me more than I need to know about the other, or give me a strongly biased version of their former mutual life. I want to learn on my own what my friends are about.

Do you have any advice on how I can define my own boundaries in this situation, and get these other people to maintain theirs?

Sincerely,
An Easterner



Dear Easterner,

It's rather unclear just how intimate your relationship with Laura is or will be, but I can see that whatever the relationship, it could potentially be very awkward and messy.

I would suggest that you be proactive in the matter and simply tell both Patrick and Laura how much you value them and get them to agree that you will not be a party to discussing their past lives together and particularly their pet peeves about each other. Then if one of them were to start a boundary-violating conversation, you have the powerful option of gently reminding him/her that there is a boundary already in place around those kind of conversations.

You are still the most responsible person around these conventions, though. It would be very easy for you to invite a boundary violation, should you happen to be angry with Laura or Patrick. You need to get your support from a fourth party should you have any conflict with one or the other.

Other than that, relax. It is amazing how small the world is sometimes, and it is so commonplace to run into situations like this.

Love, Aphrodite

Dearest Easterner,

The Queen of Love respects your goal to know Patrick and Laura based on your own experiences with them and not through their accounts of 'the way they were together.'

Your first step is to decide just how much of your natural curiosity you want to satisfy. If you are tempted to ask questions on sensitive and personal subjects, find out which ones you are willing to discover. Yes, set your own boundaries and then avoid the subjects you don't want to discuss. As for the Queen, the more revealing the subject the better the knowledge one can gain. Back to your question, though. There are many ways to discourage unwanted sharing talks. The most obvious is to cover your ears and hum. The most subtle way is to have a discourse regarding your beliefs on the appropriateness of sharing certain experiences.

Just do what feels right for you based on your individual relationships with Patrick and Laura. Personally, I want to hear everything! Knowledge is the essence of life. I wish you continued success in your relationships with Laura and Patrick. Love be with you.

The Queen of Love

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I Know You Are Mine

by Syrenka

You hold me from behind—your warm fingers lightly trace the curve under my breast. I feel your heat through my silk blouse. Of course, I will never wear a bra. I want you to see how you make my nipples smile through fabric.

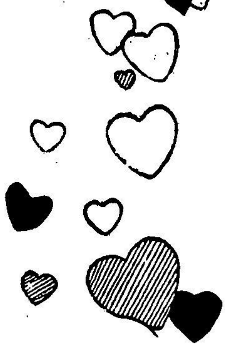
O give me a kiss. Anywhere on my body. All the blood rushes to that singular spot. We focus on that one point of contact, blessing it with true adoration, and our own purified waters.

"O holy mother, goddess of love, please take pity on us, inside this awfully small parked car, in this, our hour of great need, to keep the cops and gaybashers away, to keep the windows steamy so no one will peek, to quiet my voice so neighbors won't wake, to make sure the condom doesn't break, to keep him energetic and imaginative, and give me the strength for multiple orgasms. Thank you, holy mother."

I take off your clothes, and breathe in your cologne. O you smell perfect. I move to the driver's seat, placing my knees at your hips. You are trapped between my legs, and you smile. I lick my thumb, and rub its wetness in a circle around your nipple. I squeeze the tiny bud between my fingers and take a gentle bite. You sigh, smiling and electrified. I see that look in your eyes, and it alone is enough to make me wet.

Slowly, I move my face toward yours, but stop, almost there. I check your eyes. I know you are waiting. You want me. I see it. I smell it. I hold my lips an inch from your mouth, seductively smiling, until you are crazy with anticipation. And then, when I am ready, I push my tongue deep into your mouth, and drink until you are my dessert. I wrap my lips over your mouth and breathe into your lungs. You take my air, and push it back through our tunnel, into me. We do this, over and over again until we gasp for new air.

For this one precious moment, I know you are mine. I push the sunroof open with a sweaty palm. We lift our heads to the sky, and drink rain. ▼



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Bi Community First Thursday Art Walk

Join us with your bi-visibility t-shirts and buttons on February 2. Early birds will meet 5pm at **Sticks & Stones Gallery**, 314 Occidental Ave S., then by 6pm we'll move on to a retrospective of Lucienne Bloch's photos at **Benham Gallery**, 1216 1st Ave. Ms. Bloch was Diego Rivera's assistant and a friend of Frida Kahlo. The Minky Sisters will be providing music.

The last rendezvous is from 7pm on at **The Vault Community Gallery** at 212 3rd Ave S. They're throwing a grand opening party with live music for their exhibit 'Resource Redistribution Revolution.' Donations are requested at this venue.

World Premiere of

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by Kam Morrill

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Bisexual Mardi Gras Ball

Saturday, March 11, 1995

The Krewe of Hermaphrodite and the Northwest AIDS Foundation's Community Outreach Program is sponsoring a Mardi Gras Ball for the Bisexual community and friends on the night of Saturday March 11. Dunk Dan Savage, see nationally known sex performer from New York, Lady Hennessey Brown, dance to a funky Zydeco band, and play with other grotesquely beautiful side show performers in this safe, sexy space. There will be no charge; party-goers are encouraged to spend their money on extravagant attire. Oddfellows Hall, 915 E Pine St. Call 860-6279 for more information or to volunteer.

Creative Non-Monogamy

by Alison Rowan

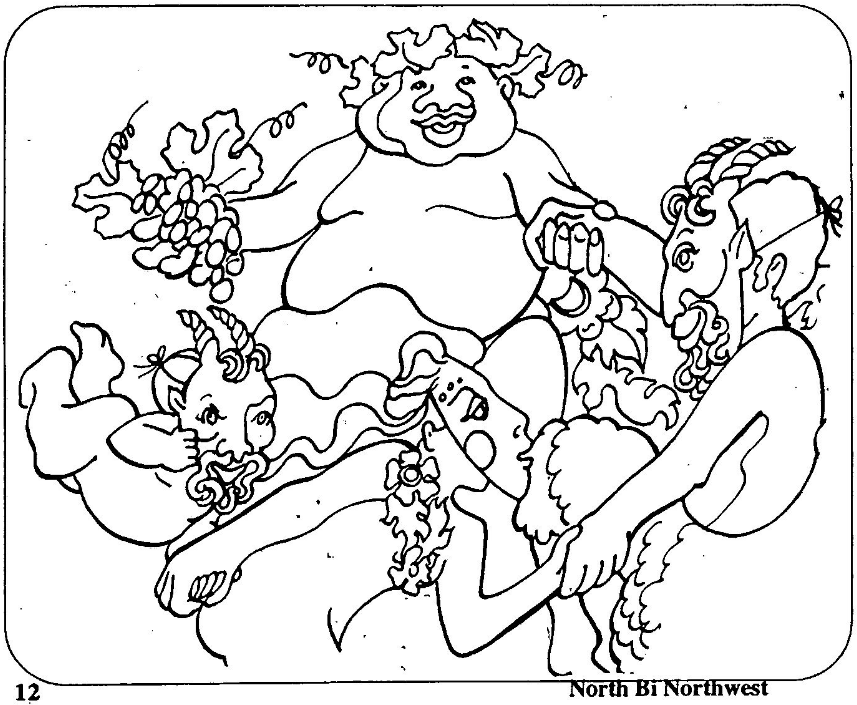
Non-monogamy is difficult. This is the premise I started out with when I offered to run a Creative Non-Monogamy workshop at the conference. It proved so popular that I had to run it twice, and we reached some interesting conclusions that I hope are worth sharing.

People who want to be non-monogamous are besieged by the self-contradictory popular views that it is both an easy (and therefore selfish) option, and that it is so hard that no non-monogamous relationship stands a hope of success. The truth I have found over the last eight years is that being conscientiously non-monogamous is difficult—in pretty much the same way as all relationships can be. We tend to think that relationships, like sex, should come naturally. Now it's generally accepted that good sex can be learnt, and we have countless books and videos to prove it. There are even books on how to be monogamous. But what about other types of relationship? Where are the instructions?

We started with a few examples of type of non-monogamy. Each of these models can work, under the right circumstances, and which you choose depends on what type of relationship you would like to have, and on which aspects of non-monogamy worry you or your partner(s).

An open relationship (or open marriage) is the most familiar model. In this two people decide that their primary relationship is with each other, but that they are free to enjoy sex with people outside that relationship. There can be various vetoes or permissions placed on who you sleep with or what type of a relationship you have with them. For instance, You may only wish to sleep with one gender (usually the other gender to your partner). You may stick to one night stands, or to sex with friends which is accepted to be casual. One couple did whatever they wanted so long as it didn't entail spending a night away from their home. Sleeping with others while in other cities (or countries), cottaging only or no cottaging, sharing lovers: as we went on we realised the list would be nearly endless, with each subtle variation being of huge importance to at least some couples.

Some options are well known enough to have names: duogomy is where a person has only two partners; often, but not necessarily, one of each gender. Polyfidelity is a closed relationship involving more than two people, where the introduction of another person would have to be agreed by every member. These set-ups can be as long-term as a marriage and involve shared houses and jointly caring for children. For most of us, this kind of situation may seem far-fetched, but considering the options can make you realise not only how many of them there are, but how rich and complex non-monogamy can be.

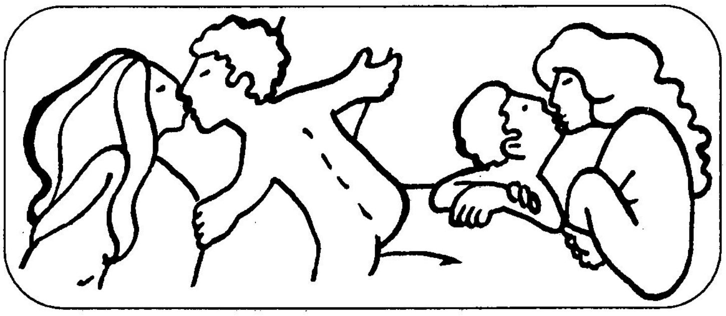


Why so many models? Partly because non-monogamy, like monogamy, presents different problems to different people, who have different ways of dealing with them. Which aspects of non-monogamy worry you most? Is it being left alone, temporarily or permanently, the fear that they will find another partner first, people finding out, safer sex, or just worries about how to fit it all into your time?

Which aspects of non-monogamy worry you most? ... being left alone, fear that they will find another partner first, people finding out, safer sex...?

Most people start out with the belief that they will be jealous, but this emotion can hide a multitude of concerns. The idea that sex alone can demonstrate love and loyalty is the biggest myth we have to face. Why should we get jealous if a lover has sex with someone else, but not if they have other close friends? If we work out what it is about sex for us that makes it so special we might be better placed to see what we are actually jealous *of,* be it time, emotional support or even money. Another confusion we discovered here is between jealousy and envy. It can be far from trivial if you discuss non-monogamy, decide you're not going to be jealous, and then your partner gets off with the woman you've had your eye on for months! Similarly you could be envious because your partner is having more success than you. Unfortunately, choosing non-monogamy won't instantly conjure up partners for either of you.

The most difficult points in a non-monogamous relationship will tend to be when one or other of you starts seeing someone else, because that's when things change. Change is always threatening, however advanced we like to think ourselves. One of the biggest concerns at the workshops came from people involved in currently monogamous relationships who



wanted to change that. How do you explain that it's not that you are tired of your partner? In some cases just mentioning non-monogamy can be as scary as practising it.

With this sort of insecurity it was suggested that it's often best after mentioning the idea to leave it for a while and demonstrate your devotion in practice. This makes it clear that it's non-monogamy in principle that interests you and not just finding new partners. Being non-monogamous in principle for a while offers the chance for you both to get used to the idea, eye up other people and discuss what might happen. It will also make something clear that many people forget. It's not sleeping with other people that makes you non-monogamous, it's the agreements you make. If you can't find, or maybe aren't even interested in, other partners at the moment, non-monogamy still makes an enormous difference to your relationships. If in doubt, ask anyone who's ever ended up monogamous by default.

The main subject dealt with in the workshops was negotiation, and this is a huge subject, covering many books and much jargon. The basics, as always, include openness and honesty, expressing things in terms of what *you* feel and without gratuitous insults, ("I'm worried that you'll leave me," rather than, "you'll go off with that tart from accounts") and allowing that there is no 'right' way to feel. It's also very important to allow yourself time and a quiet space to talk. Things won't go well if you're uncomfortable or you have to rush off to a meeting just when things get difficult.

> *it may surprise you monogamous types that 'lots of sex' came about three quarters of the way down the list..*

We ended the workshop with a huge list of positive aspects of non-monogamy, and I was relieved to see that even after all the heavy negotiating no one had any difficulty thinking of them. And it may surprise you monogamous types that 'lots of sex' came about three quarters of the way down the list. More important were 'honesty,' 'having shoulders to cry on,' 'being able to talk about who you both fancy,' and 'knowing your lover really wants to stay with you.' The list was long, and no doubt contained many things that can also be gained in a monogamous relationship, but for the sixty-four people who came to the workshops, as well as for many others, non-monogamy offers the best option. My favourite positive point was that non-monogamy redefines sex, managing somehow to make it both more, and less, important. Less because it no longer needs to be the hinge and the hang-up of a relationship, and more because we are at last able to use it in fun, friendship and emotional closeness to its full potential.

Reprinted from BiFrost, issue 29, November 1993. PO Box 1057, Edinburgh, EH3 9DH, Scotland. e-mail: bifrost@ed.ac.uk ▼

Events!

International Women's Day is a public celebration of women: what we do and have done. This year's celebration will be on Sunday, March 5 at Seattle Center House, Noon to 5pm. SBWN will be there; we're looking for volunteers to be at our table. Of course, you'll have time to wander around and see what's been happening with our sisters.

Keynote speaker Maya Angelou will open the **Northwest International Women's Conference**, held Feb 3-5 at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center. Among other notables will be Nobel laureate Mairead Corrigan Maguire, who has dedicated herself to promoting peace in Northern Ireland; B.C. Deputy Premier Elizabeth Cull, and MTV news anchor Tabitha Soren. This 'Forum for Global Leadership,' is a precursor to the Fourth United Nations Conference on Women in Beijing. Call 1-800-346-2452 for details.

! EQUALITY 25 !

On February 25, 6pm, at Carpenter's Center, 2512 2nd Ave, Seattle NOW will celebrate its Twenty-Five years of 'Pushing Buttons, Breaking Barriers, and Opening Doors' with a Gala Celebration Auction! Tables for 8-10 are available, scrumptious food catered by Hope Sandler, live and silent auctions with sailing trips, artwork, opera tickets, haircuts, and much, much more! Tickets $25. 632-8547.

The Seattle Chapter of the National Organization for Women was founded in 1970, the 36th in the U.S. They've worked hard against discrimination in employment, public accommodation and legal affairs. Some of their accomplishments are: leaning on the local daily newspapers until they complied with the 1964 Civil Rights Act and stopped separating want ads into Male and Female; getting diversity into Seattle Public Schools' textbooks; establishing King County Rape Relief; helping enact Washington's Marital Rape Law; organizing the Womentor project for young lesbians and bi women; and establishing a Homeless Women's project.

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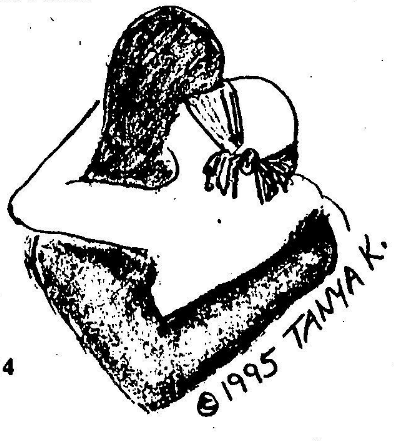
'Science' continued from page 1

turn over. We were discussing our friend Stan who had moved to Argentina. We weren't having sex!

I was by this time feeling quite relaxed, a bit aroused, and a little more bold. I warmed some more coconut oil in my palms and unreservedly rubbed it onto Cathy's belly, chest and breasts. I moved down to her legs. I noticed what a beautiful body Cathy had, how I had never had a chance to admire it in quite this way before. We were talking about the biotechnology industry — who was hiring, who was firing, what new companies were being started. Not sex! I let my fingertips graze the lips of her pussy. Her scent there was strong and heady. Cathy took some oil into her own hands and started massaging my arms and hands. I hadn't been craving touch, but when I got it, I drank it up. Yum.

In a few minutes, Cathy said that I should lie down so that she could massage me. I lay on my back and Cathy massaged me as I had massaged her. She explained to me about superantigens and T-cell receptors. We couldn't be having sex. At the same time, I was aware that we were the hottest thing that had happened in that room since we had arrived, and I was wondering what it looked like from the outside — two scientists heatedly discussing immunology as they stroked each others' breasts and it was delicious. And we talked about autoimmune disease therapies.

Sadly I began to sense that it was time for my 2:00 volunteer shift. I was regretting that I had volunteered — I was happy right where I was. In fact, I could have gotten very much more involved in, er, not having sex with Cathy. I also could easily have moved into, uh, not having sex with some of the other women who were there. ▼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Memory

by Kellie

As the evening passes, your memory
becomes part of my soul by not fading
into the unkept memories of the day, by
staying fresh and becoming even stronger

The smell of your soft golden hair now
fills my quiet room

The feeling of your warm body pressed
against mine now warms my skin

The sight of your arched neck now plays
back in my mind every time I close my
eyes

The taste of your sweet lips now engulfs
my mouth

The sound of your soft moans calling out
to me now ring loudly in my ears

All of my senses are crying out for you
now. Even though I have enjoyed an
evening filled with soft music, enjoyable
food, and a warm candlelit bath since
leaving you, everything seems to have
faded into the background, as my soul
enjoys the memory of only you

Counseling Services

Two new programs are beginning at Seattle Counseling Service for Sexual Minorities.

One is for **different-orientation spouses or partners of lesbians, bisexuals and gay men.** Services provided include individual therapy as well as couples and group counseling. Peer support removes the isolation experienced and gives the message that others have gotten through the turmoil. Counseling helps clarify confusion, face fears and release anger in healthy, healing ways, as clients reach decisions and conclusions that work for them. Single-gender groups will form if enough people request them.

The second is a support and counseling for **over-60 bisexual, lesbian, gay and transgender people.** Among the focus is retirement, grief and loss, depression, family relations, and other life transition issues.

For information on these groups, call Arleen Nelson at 282-9314. Many insurance companies, as well as Medicare and Medicaid, cover these services. The first phone consultation is free. SCS is a bi-supportive organization.

Two Kisses

by Annabelle Powell

She calls up, says she wants to show off her new car. I know she's had it for only a couple days. I don't think it's a big deal, but she sounds so excited. I have a lot to do, I haven't started work yet, but I say yes. She shows up early, smelling of outside, hair a bit wild, like she's been driving with the window down. It's March.

We can't decide what to do, so we just get in the car. It's cute, I guess, not the car I'd buy; not even what I'd picture her in. But it is a 2-seater, and she says maybe she'll let me drive it sometime.

We're in my new (to me) car, driving fast, a little crazy. I'm intoxicated, being with her, being free, feeling lust. She comments on my speed, and I say I'm feeling young, I feel like I did when I first got a car, I feel 16. She says I should act as young as I feel. I ask her how old she is, and she replies, "Seventeen."

We head to the highway, but she goes past the ramp, and takes a left, heading to the park. It's a nice drive during the day, but you can't see anything at night. I guess I'm just along for the ride. She's driving fast, 20 or 25 miles over the speed limit. There aren't any other cars, since it's late, but still... Does she know how this car handles? She hasn't driven in a while; does she know what she's doing?

I have my seat belt on, but it's such a small car. I ask if she drives this fast all the time, and she says something about feeling like a kid who just got a car. I guess it fits. So then she says she feels 16, how old am I? I'm older than her, so I say 17. This makes her smile.

We're in tune. I drive a little faster; it's late, no cars on the road, and we're just driving around. We come to a traffic light, and she says, "Let's go to the beach." I take a left, up a hill, past that fancy neighborhood, we look at some of the storefronts, closed for hours. I'm looking for just the right place; I've been by here, I think I know that I can find the perfect spot.

We come to the end of the park, and I know there's a beach near here. She takes a turn, but there are cars around, so she drives a lot slower. She knows where to go; she parks right on the street in front of the beach access. She parallel parks; I guess she does know how to drive. We get out.

I can see the beach, just off a one-way street. I park, and we just sit for a moment. It's pretty dark out here, even though there are some apartment buildings just a bit away. She suggests a walk. We get out of the car, and walk down to the beach. It's not spring yet, I can smell the cold, but the wind is just a breeze, and it's not raining. I have a jacket on, but she has only a flannel shirt.

It's a pretty cool night, but not too much wind, and the rain stopped a couple hours ago, and the sky is clear. I have two shirts on, and she has a coat. We should be OK. We stand there for a bit, and then she puts her arms around me, pressing her body against my left side. This is nice, keeps me warm. We talk a bit, about nothing much, and then we're quiet.

I notice I'm just a little shorter than her, as I put my arms around her, resting my head on the hollow made by her shoulder and neck. My jacket is draped around both of us, and neither of is cold. We just stand like that, and I wonder at how I feel, so calm, so happy. She's looking at the sky, which has cleared, and we can see the stars. No moon yet, so we can also see the car lights on the highway to the north. But there's no foreign noise, just the water sloshing about, and us breathing. We talk a while; I tell her I'm interested in her, that I want to get to know her.

Then we're quiet. I'm just filled with so much feeling. I'm touching her, she's here with me, anything can happen.

I'm thinking this is nice, sort of romantic. The stars are out, and I feel kind of small, isolated. And then we kiss. Nice, slow, not aggressive, like I'd've thought. No tongue at first, which is OK. Then I open her mouth a bit, feel her desire. She tastes nice, sort of minty and water, but not like she just brushed her teeth.

I can feel her move some. Maybe she's really into this, but I know I won't end up rolling around the sand. I'm starting to get cold.

I want a kiss; as I raise my head to ask, she shifts her weight, and our lips meet. At first, we just touch lips, warm, smooth. Then one of us opens our mouth, I'm not sure who, and I feel fire, my knees are shaky, I'm not sure I'll be able to stand much longer. This kiss is slow, easy, soft. I feel tentative about exploring her mouth, running my tongue along her teeth, feeling her breath on my cheek. She gently presses her body against mine, not aggressive, just giving. I'm aware of the breeze, the sounds of the water, of being surrounded by the dark and the stars. My whole body feels like it's shaking, but she seems unaware of this. My skin is alive, tinkling; I imagine the hairs just standing straight up. My feet don't feel the sand, I'm not floating, exactly, just not grounded. I feel alive. I can feel the future. ▼

CALENDAR

For locations, confirmation, or more information, call the appropriate message machine and someone will get back to you (with discretion if requested). For **SBWN** events call (206) 783-7987. For all other Seattle events, **(BiNet, SBMU, Polyfi, BiOut, etc.)** Call (206) **728-4533.**

*** denotes multi-gender events.**

Thu Feb 2-Second Bi 2nd. Bi Community First Thursday Art Walk. Wear bi shirts & buttons for visibility! 5pm @ Sticks & Stones Gallery; 6pm @ Benham Studios, 7pm @ The Vault Community Gallery. *

Mon Feb 6-SBWN Newcomer meeting. 7:15pm. 'Naturopathic Women's Health'.

Wed Feb 8-BiNet Mtg. 7pm @ NWAF Office, 127 Broadway E. *

Thu Feb 9-Bluestockings. 7pm @ Devra's, Wallingford. *Still Loved by the Sun*, Migael Scherer.

Sat Feb 11-Polyfidelity Games Night. 7pm @ Pilgrim Congregational Church. *

Sat Feb 11-Diva Dance. 7pm @ Crossroads Learning Center, 325-8790.

Sun Feb 12-SBWN Mtg. 6pm. 'Romancing Your Sweetie'.

Mon Feb 13-SBMU meeting. 7pm. 'Our definitions of being 'bisexual'.'

Tue Feb 14-♥♥ Bisexual Visibility Day! ♥ Bi night at the Vogue!! Wear your Bi Outfits and come party with us!

Thu Feb 16-Take Two Film Club. 6:30pm @ Gayla's, N. Queen Anne.

Mon Feb 20-SBWN Newcomer meeting **7:15pm. 'Basics of Coming Out'.**

Sun Feb 26-SBWN Mtg. 6pm. 'Surviving Rape'.

Mon Feb 27-SBWN phone answered live 7:30-9:30pm.

Sat/Sun Mar 3/5-SBWN retreat. Keep in touch for updates and details.

Sun Mar 5-Input deadline for *North Bi Northwest* April issue. *

Sun Mar 5-International Women's Day @ Seattle Center House. Noon-5pm. *

Mon Mar 6-SBWN Newcomer meeting 7:15pm. 'Biphobia'.

Wed Mar 8-BiNet Mtg. 7pm @ NWAF Office, 127 Broadway E. *

Sat Mar 11-Polyfidelity potluck. 6:30pm. Pilgrim Congregational Church. *

Sat Mar 11-Bi Mardi Gras! Dance, food, Dan Savage dunk tank, Bi Safer Sex Visuals, side shows. NWAF party for us. All Ages, Free. *

Sun Mar 12-SBWN Mtg. 6pm. 'P-FLAG'.

Mon Mar 13-*Rollercoaster*. Bi Opera, UofW Meany Studio Theater.

Mon Mar 13-SBMU meeting. 7pm. 'Pro-gay western cultural traditions.'

Thu Mar 16-Take Two Film Club. 6:30pm @ Gayla's, N. Queen Anne.

Mon Mar 20-SBWN Newcomer meeting 7:15pm. 'Dyke TV'.

Sun Mar 26-SBWN Mtg. 6pm. 'Questions Galore,' NbiNW mailing.

Mon Mar 27-SBWN phone answered live 7:30-9:30pm.

Mon Apr 8-SBWN Newcomer meeting 7:15pm. 'Comparing Relationships with Men vs with Women'.

Sat Apr 22- Bi Community Earth Day Party! Details forthcoming. *

Advertising =

North Bi Northwest welcomes advertising from bi-friendly businesses, individuals, organizations and services. Our advertising rates are as follows:

Business card size: $10/issue
Quarter page: $20/issue
Half page: $40/issue
Full page: $80/issue
2 consecutive issues: 15% discount
3 consecutive issues: 30% discount

For more information call (206) 783-7987 & leave a message.

Local Groups at Your Service

SBWN (Seattle Bisexual Women's Network): Support and discussion groups on alternate Sundays, 6pm, and Newcomer meetings on alternate Mondays, 7:15pm. For more information, call our message machine. Note our occasional live phone answer times.

Bluestockings: SBWN-affiliated monthly feminist women's reading group. In addition to feminist writing, readings have included popular fiction, women's history, and a work-in-progress by a member. All women are welcome.

Take Two Film Club: SBWN-affiliated monthly video club. They review each flick after viewing, consensualizing on what they would advise others to take or do two of when seeing it for the first time. (i.e. Take two hands to hold when viewing Kafka for the first time; it's scary.) Meets 3rd Thurs.

SBMU (Seattle Bisexual Men's Union): a men's anti-sexist support and social group with discussion meetings on second Mondays of the month at Pilgrim Congregational Church, room 304 (enter from 10th Av), and occasional social events (location varies).

Polyfidelity Discussion Group: Support group for people in or interested in multipartner relationships. Discussions and literature on responsible nonmonogamy, intimate networks, alternative relationships and community. Bimonthly potlucks, 6:30pm at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 509 10th Av E, Seattle; alternate-month get-togethers.

Second bi 2nd: a floating bi-friendly social event held on the second day of most months. We go canoeing, read stories, listen to jazz, do brunch.... Date occasionally varies.

BiNet, the Bisexual Network of Seattle: a multi-gender, multicultural profeminist group dedicated to providing information about bisexuality, promoting bisexual visibility, and developing community.

BiOut Speakers Bureau: available for engagements at schools, businesses, counseling centers, churches, etc. to provide information and answer questions about bisexuality.